

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A hurdle comprising:
 - 5 a. an at least substantially horizontal upper crossbar having opposing bar ends;
 - b. a first strut descending at least substantially vertically from the crossbar;
 - c. a second strut descending at least substantially vertically from the crossbar, the second strut being spaced from the first strut;
 - 10 d. an at least substantially horizontal lower support leg extending from the first strut at or near the bottom of the first strut, wherein the support leg is movable about the axis of the first strut to move into and out of coplanar alignment with the first strut and the crossbar.
- 15 2. The hurdle of claim 1 wherein the support leg is rotatable about the axis of the first strut.
3. The hurdle of claim 1 wherein the support leg terminates in a collar rotatably fit about the first strut.
- 20 4. The hurdle of claim 3 wherein the collar is closely situated between a pair of stops radially protruding from the first strut.
5. The hurdle of claim 4 wherein an elastomeric ring extends about the first strut between the collar and one of the stops, whereby the elastomeric ring bears against the collar and resists rotation of the collar about the first strut.
- 25

- 5
6. The hurdle of claim 1 wherein each strut includes:
- a. first and second strut members adjacently situated in slidable relationship, whereby each strut may be raised and lowered by sliding its strut members relative to each other, and
 - b. locking means for locking the first and second strut members together at discretely spaced locations.
- 10
7. The hurdle of claim 6 wherein:
- a. the second strut member includes spaced indentations defined along its length, and
 - b. the locking means includes a locking member elastically biased to extend from the first strut member into one of the indentations of the second strut member.
- 15
8. The hurdle of claim 7 wherein the locking member is elastically biased by an elastic band extending about the first strut member.
- 20
9. The hurdle of claim 8 wherein the elastic band is a helical spring extending about the first strut member.
10. The hurdle of claim 8 wherein the second strut member is telescopically situated within the first strut member.

11. The hurdle of claim 1 wherein each strut includes:

- a. first and second strut members adjacently situated in slidable relationship, whereby each strut may be raised and lowered by sliding its strut members relative to each other, and
- b. a locking member elastically biased to extend through the first strut member and at least partially through the second strut member, whereby the locking member defeatably maintains the first and second strut members together.

12. The hurdle of claim 11 wherein:

- a. the first strut member includes a locking aperture through which the locking member extends;
- b. the second strut member includes spaced indentations defined along its length into which the locking member may extend; and
- c. the locking member has a curved surface extending through the locking aperture of the first strut member and at least partially through one of the indentations of the second strut member.

13. The hurdle of claim 11 wherein the locking member is elastically biased by an elastic band extending about the first strut member.

14. The hurdle of claim 13 wherein the elastic band is a helical spring.

15. The hurdle of claim 13 wherein the elastic band also extends about the second strut member.

16. The hurdle of claim 1:

- a. wherein the crossbar includes a handle aperture extending through the crossbar between the bar ends; and
- b. further comprising a collection handle having a shaft sized to extend through the handle aperture.

17. The hurdle of claim 16 wherein the shaft of the collection handle further includes:

- a. a first end sized such that it cannot extend through the handle aperture, and
- b. a second end:
 - (1) ordinarily sized to extend through the handle aperture, and
 - (2) reconfigurable to a size that cannot extend through the handle aperture.

18. A hurdle comprising:

- a. an at least substantially horizontal upper crossbar having opposing bar ends;
- b. spaced first and second struts descending at least substantially vertically from the crossbar, each strut including:
 - (1) first and second strut members adjacently situated in translatable relationship, whereby each strut may be raised and lowered by translating its strut members relative to each other, and
 - (2) a locking member elastically biased to extend from the first strut member and at least partially through the second strut member, whereby the locking member defeatably maintains the first and second strut members together;
- c. a lower support leg extending from the first strut at or near the bottom of the first strut.

5

19. The hurdle of claim 18 wherein the second strut member includes indentations defined therein into which the locking member extends, the indentations being spaced along its length.

10

20. The hurdle of claim 19 wherein the first strut member includes a locking aperture defined therein through which the locking member extends.

21. The hurdle of claim 19 wherein the locking member is elastically biased by an elastic band extending about the first strut member.

15

22. The hurdle of claim 21 wherein the elastic band is a helical spring.

23. The hurdle of claim 21 wherein the elastic band also extends about the second strut member.

24. The hurdle of claim 21 wherein the elastic band extends through the locking member.

20

25. The hurdle of claim 18 wherein:

- a. the second strut member is telescopically situated within the first strut, and
- b. the second strut member includes spaced indentations defined along its length into which the locking member extends.

25

26. The hurdle of claim 18 wherein the support leg is movable about the axis of the first strut to move into and out of coplanar alignment with the first strut and the crossbar.

27. The hurdle of claim 18 wherein the support leg is movable with respect to the upper crossbar between:

- a. a folded state wherein the outer leg end is situated at least substantially within a plane common to the first and second struts, and
- b. a supporting state wherein the outer leg end is situated out of a plane common to the first and second struts.

28. The hurdle of claim 18 wherein the support leg is rotatable about the axis of the first strut.

29. The hurdle of claim 18 wherein the support leg terminates in a collar rotatably fit about the first strut.

30. The hurdle of claim 29 wherein the collar is closely situated between a pair of stops radially protruding from the first strut.

31. The hurdle of claim 30 wherein an elastomeric ring extends about the first strut between the collar and one of the stops, whereby the elastomeric ring bears against the collar and resists rotation of the collar about the first strut.

32. The hurdle of claim 18:

- a. wherein the crossbar includes a handle aperture extending through the crossbar between the bar ends; and
- b. further comprising a collection handle having a shaft sized to extend through the handle aperture.

33. The hurdle of claim 32 wherein the shaft of the collection handle further includes:
- a. a first end sized such that it cannot extend through the handle aperture, and
 - b. a second end:
 - (1) ordinarily sized to extend through the handle aperture, and
 - (2) reconfigurable to a size that cannot extend through the handle aperture.
34. A hurdle comprising:
- a. an at least substantially horizontal upper crossbar having opposing bar ends;
 - b. spaced first and second struts descending at least substantially vertically from the crossbar, each strut including:
 - (1) first and second strut members adjacently situated in slidable relationship, whereby each strut may be raised and lowered by sliding its strut members relative to each other, and
 - (2) locking means for locking the first and second strut members together at discretely spaced locations,
 - c. an at least substantially horizontal lower support leg extending from the first strut at or near the bottom of the first strut, wherein the lower support leg is movable about the axis of the first strut to move into and out of coplanar alignment with the first strut and the crossbar.
35. The hurdle of claim 34 wherein the support leg is rotatable about the axis of the first strut.
36. The hurdle of claim 34 wherein the support leg terminates in a collar rotatably fit about the first strut.

37. The hurdle of claim 36 wherein the collar is closely situated between a pair of stops radially protruding from the first strut.

38. The hurdle of claim 37 wherein an elastomeric ring extends about the first strut between the collar and one of the stops, whereby the elastomeric ring bears against the collar and resists rotation of the collar about the first strut.

39. The hurdle of claim 34 wherein:

- a. the second strut member includes indentations spaced along its length, and
- b. the locking means includes a locking member extending from the first strut member into one of the indentations on the first strut member.

40. The hurdle of claim 39 wherein:

- a. the locking member is elastically biased to extend from the first strut member into one of the indentations on the second strut member, and
- b. the locking member has a curved surface extending into this indentation.

41. The hurdle of claim 39 wherein the first strut member includes a locking aperture through which the locking member extends.

42. The hurdle of claim 41 wherein the locking member is elastically biased to extend through the locking aperture and into one of the indentations on the second strut member.

43. The hurdle of claim 42 wherein the locking member is elastically biased by an elastic band extending about the first strut member.

44. The hurdle of claim 43 wherein the elastic band also extends about the second strut member.

45. The hurdle of claim 43 wherein the elastic band is a helical spring.

46. The hurdle of claim 34:

- a. wherein the crossbar includes a handle aperture extending through the crossbar between the bar ends; and
- b. further comprising a collection handle having a shaft sized to extend through the handle aperture.

47. The hurdle of claim 46 wherein the shaft of the collection handle further includes:

- a. a first end sized such that it cannot extend through the handle aperture, and
- b. a second end:
 - (1) ordinarily sized to extend through the handle aperture, and
 - (2) reconfigurable to a size that cannot extend through the handle aperture.

48. A hurdle comprising:

- a. an at least substantially horizontal upper crossbar having opposing bar ends;
- b. spaced first and second struts descending from the crossbar;
- c. a lower support leg extending from the first strut at or near the bottom of the first strut and terminating at an outer leg end, wherein the lower support leg is movable with respect to the upper crossbar between:
 - (1) a folded state wherein the outer leg end is situated at least substantially within a plane common to the first and second struts, and
 - (2) a supporting state wherein the outer leg end is situated out of a plane common to the first and second struts.

49. The hurdle of claim 48:

- a. wherein the crossbar includes a handle aperture extending through the crossbar between the bar ends; and
- b. further comprising a collection handle having a shaft sized to extend through the handle aperture.

50. The hurdle of claim 49 wherein the shaft of the collection handle further includes:

- a. a first end sized such that it cannot fit through the handle aperture, and
- b. a second end movable into and out of coaxial relationship with the shaft.

51. The hurdle of claim 48 wherein the lower support leg is rotatable about the axis of the first strut.

52. The hurdle of claim 48 wherein an elastomeric member situated on the first strut bears against the support leg and resists motion of the support leg between the folded and supporting states.

5 53. The hurdle of claim 52 wherein the elastomeric member is an elastomeric ring extending about the first strut.

54. The hurdle of claim 48 wherein each strut includes:

- 10 a. first and second strut members adjacently situated in slidable relationship, whereby each strut may be raised and lowered by sliding its strut members relative to each other, and
- b. a locking member which defeatably engages the first and second strut members together at discretely spaced locations along the length of the second strut.

15

55. The hurdle of claim 54 wherein:

- a. the second strut member includes indentations defined therein, the indentations being discretely spaced along the length of the second strut member, and
- 20 b. the locking member is elastically biased to extend from the first strut member into one of the indentations of the second strut member.